

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact, said energy absorber comprising a blow molded thermoplastic ~~unitary~~ single piece structure having a rearward facing support portion and a crushable forward projecting portion adapted to crush upon the impact, said support portion comprising a flange extending around a periphery of said support portion for attaching said energy absorber to a bumper beam, said forward projecting portion comprising a plurality of forwardly projecting crushable members.

2. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 1 wherein said energy absorber has an elongated shape and is adapted for mounting to the forward end of the vehicle for extending longitudinally across the width of the vehicle.

3. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 2 wherein said energy absorber is adapted for pedestrian leg protection and has a highly efficient crush mode.

4. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 2 is adapted to reduce forces of impact with legs of a pedestrian.

5. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 2 wherein the

energy absorber is adapted to absorb energy during the impact of said vehicle at low speeds of less than or equal to 5Mph.

6. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 2 said energy absorber consisting essentially of a single integral unit of blow molded material.

7-8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim [[7]] 1 wherein said plurality of crushable members extend outwardly from the support portion, each of said crushable members having a forwardly facing front wall, at least a pair of adjacent crushable members having interconnecting front walls.

10. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 9 wherein said plurality of the crushable members are attached longitudinally across the front of the support portion.

11. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 10 wherein said plurality of crushable members project forwardly and are spaced apart longitudinally across said support portion.

12. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 1 wherein said energy absorber comprises a thermoplastic resin.

13. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 12 wherein said thermoplastic resin comprises polyolefin, a polyester resin, a polycarbonate, or mixtures thereof.

14. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 13 wherein said polyester resin is a polyalkylene terephthalate, a high density polyethylene, a low density polyethylene, a polyamide or mixtures thereof.

15. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 14 wherein said polyester resin is polybutylene terephthalate and said polycarbonate is an aromatic polycarbonate.

16. (previously presented) An energy absorber adapted for attachment to a vehicle bumper beam for absorbing forces generated from an impact according to claim 10 wherein said energy absorber is interposed between the fascia and the bumper beam to form a vehicle bumper, said vehicle bumper being attachable to the front of the vehicle, said fascia enveloping the energy absorber and the bumper beam such that neither component other than the fascia is visible once attached to the vehicle.

17. (new) An energy absorbing bumper system for an automobile vehicle, said method comprising:

a bumper beam attachable to the automobile vehicle;

an energy absorber attached to said bumper beam; and

a fascia enveloping said energy absorber and said bumper beam so that said energy absorber and said bumper beam is not visible;

said energy absorber comprising:

a blow molded thermoplastic single piece structure having a rearward facing support portion and a crushable forward projecting portion adapted to crush upon an impact, said support portion comprising a flange extending around a periphery of said support portion for attaching said energy absorber to said bumper beam, said forward projecting portion comprising a plurality of forwardly projecting crushable members.

18 (new) A bumper system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said energy absorber has an elongated shape and is adapted to extend longitudinally across the width of the automobile vehicle.

19. (new) A bumper system in accordance with Claim 17 wherein said plurality of crushable members extend outwardly from the support portion, each of said crushable members having a forwardly facing front wall, at least a pair of adjacent crushable members having interconnecting front walls.

20. (new) A bumper system in accordance with Claim 19 wherein said plurality of crushable members project forwardly and are spaced apart longitudinally across said support portion.